

# Using Wikipedia Wisely

- “Free encyclopedia that anyone can edit”
- “Allowed to be imperfect”
- You can’t tell who writes what

## Remember what Wikipedia Is

## Take-Home Message #1

- Material in Wikipedia can be changed by anyone
- Material in Wikipedia can be changed at any time

- Errors, biases and inaccuracies can find their way into Wikipedia as easily as accurate and objective information
- “Sounds right” doesn’t mean “Is right”

## Take-Home Message #2

- What will you be using the information for?
- Will you be passing the information along?

## Why are you researching?

## Take-Home Message #3

- Use to start your research and to gain a general understanding of the topic
- Consult other credible resources to back up the information you found

- Ask “what are the stakes of a mistake?”
- Use librarians and credentialed subject experts to help find other credible information sources

## Take-Home Message #4

# Consider The Source

To learn more  
about other  
Wiki-based  
information  
resources

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki>

<http://www.wiki.com/whatiswiki.htm>

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/wiki>

<http://www.answers.com/topic/wiki>

Other Wikis  
besides  
Wikipedia

<http://www.wikibooks.org/>

<http://www.wiktionary.org/>

In Google, search for a subject and add  
the word “wiki” to the search.

For example: *education wiki*